

REMARKS

Claims 51-75 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 51, 59, 62-65 and 73 were rejected and claims 52-58, 60, 61, 66-72, 74 and 75 were objected to.

I. OBJECTION WITH RESPECT TO CLAIMS 52-58, 60, 61, 66-72, 74 AND 75

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 52-58, 60, 61, 66-72, 74 and 75 include patentable subject matter. The Examiner further indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claims 52, 54-58, 60 and 61 into independent form to include all of the elements as set forth in claim 51. Applicants have also rewritten claims 66, 68-72, 74 and 75 to include all of the elements as set forth in claim 65. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 52-58, 60, 61, 66-72, 74 and 75 are now in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTION CLAIMS 51, 59, 62-65 AND 73

Applicants respectfully request that claims 51, 59, 62-65 and 73 be cancelled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter recited in claims 51, 59, 62-65 and 73 in a subsequent patent application (e.g., a continuing patent application).

III. CONCLUSION

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 52-58, 60, 61, 66-72, 74 and 75 are in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: June 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Michael T. Cruz
Reg. No. 44,636

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2565
Telephone: (312) 775-8084
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100